

# NASA Facts

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

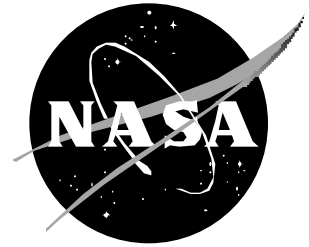
## **NASA Headquarters**

Public Affairs Office

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Washington DC 20546



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## **NASA's Organization**

*Introducing NASA Personnel, Programs, and Facilities*

**NASA Headquarters,  
Washington, DC 20546  
1,500 civil servants**

Formulates policy, controls the budget, and provides management oversight for programs conducted at nine NASA Field Centers, the contractor-operated Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and the Wallops Flight Facility under the direction of Goddard Space Flight Center.

- interfaces with the executive and legislative branches
- coordinates a broad range of international cooperation

**Ames Research Center,  
Moffett Field, CA 94035  
1,500 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Information Technology*

Founded in 1939 as an aircraft research laboratory, conducts computer science and information systems development, and space, Earth, and life sciences, including:

- flight simulation
- wind tunnel development and operation
- supercomputing and advanced computer-based modeling
- the origins of life in the universe
- airborne sciences
- advanced life support systems
- helicopters and advanced rotorcraft
- artificial intelligence

**Dryden Flight Research Center,  
Edwards, CA 93523  
470 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Atmospheric Flight Operations*

Adjacent to Edwards Air Force Base in the southern California desert since 1946 and home of historic X-plane testing, provides a versatile facility ideal for Space Shuttle landings and tests on a variety of aerospace vehicles. Dryden research supports:

- high-performance aircraft and spacecraft
- general aviation
- flight research through and above the atmosphere

**Goddard Space Flight Center,  
Greenbelt, MD 20771  
3,500 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Scientific Research*

Named for rocket propulsion pioneer Robert Goddard in 1959, has diverse responsibilities ranging from research in Earth science and astrophysics to satellite tracking and control. The Center:

- directs development of the Earth Observing System (EOS)
- manages and operates the Hubble Space Telescope
- operates the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS), NASA's primary satellite communications network

- operates most Earth-orbiting robotic spacecraft

**Jet Propulsion Laboratory,  
Pasadena, CA 91109  
6,000 contractors**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Deep Space Systems*

Government-owned facility since 1944 and operated by the California Institute of Technology under a NASA contract, provides historic center of excellence in planetary science; home of the worldwide Deep Space Network of large ground-based satellite communications dishes. JPL:

- designs and operates spacecraft to explore the Solar System, including the Cassini mission to Saturn and a series of small robotic missions to Mars
- supports research in automated spacecraft operations and related computer science
- develops advanced technology in spacecraft and science instrument miniaturization

**Johnson Space Center,  
Houston, TX 77058  
3,300 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Human Operations in Space*

Established in 1961 as the Center for activities related to U.S. human space flight, manages the Space Shuttle and International Space Station programs. Major activities include:

- Shuttle mission control and operations planning
- selection and training of astronauts
- applied medical and life sciences research
- studies of lunar samples returned by the Apollo program

**Kennedy Space Center,  
KSC, FL 32899  
2,100 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Launch and Cargo Processing Systems*

Created in the early 1960's as launch site for Apollo, now economic hub of central Florida's "Spacecoast," launches the Space Shuttle and expendable rockets. The Center:

- prepares four Space Shuttle orbiters for launch and services them upon return

- develops and maintains the Shuttle launch pads and control center
- provides the primary landing site for the Shuttle
- will operate the Space Station Processing Facility, where components of the orbiting international laboratory will be packaged for launch

**Langley Research Center,  
Hampton, VA 23665-5225  
2,500 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Structure and Materials*

Established in 1917 as the nation's first aeronautical research laboratory, is responsible for some of the most important aeronautical advances of the 20th century; performs research and development in aeronautics and space technology related to:

- aircraft safety and avionics
- aerodynamics
- general aviation
- hypersonic flight
- space systems and instrumentation
- advanced composite materials and their nondestructive testing
- vertical/short-takeoff and landing flight research

**Lewis Research Center,  
Cleveland, OH 44135  
2,200 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Turbomachinery*

International leader in jet engine research since 1941, has expertise in advanced space propulsion and space power systems, including:

- the electrical power solar arrays for the International Space Station
- combustion research
- aircraft engine noise and emissions reduction
- chemical and electric rocket propulsion
- advanced turbojet aircraft engines

**Marshall Space Flight Center  
Huntsville, AL 35812  
3,100 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Space Propulsion*

Originally part of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, transferred to NASA in 1960 and famed as the U.S. home of Wernher von Braun and other German rocket pioneers,

provides expertise for rocket engine development, with other responsibilities in the Space Station program, astrophysics, microgravity science, and technology transfer. The Center:

- manages the main rocket engines, external fuel tank and solid-fuel boosters for the Space Shuttle program and its Spacelab microgravity science modules
- develops the pressurized living and working modules for the International Space Station
- manages the development of the Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility astronomy satellite
- is preparing to lead development of new generation of reusable launch vehicles

**Stennis Space Center**

**SSC, MS 39529-5000**

**200 civil servants**

*NASA's Center of Excellence  
for Propulsion Testing Systems*

Premier U.S. center for testing large rocket propulsion systems, supports the Space Shuttle program and fosters the commercialization of Earth observation data. Stennis:

- maintains and operates a range of engine test-firing stands
- issues grants and provides expertise in land-use planning and other applications of Earth remote-sensing data

**Wallops Flight Facility,  
Wallops Island, VA 23337  
300 civil servants**

One of the world's original rocket launch sites founded in 1945, manages NASA's suborbital sounding rocket program and scientific balloon flights to Earth's upper atmosphere.